Letter to the Editor / Editöre Mektup

MEDICINE PALLIATIVE CARE

DOI: 10.47582/jompac.1063198

J Med Palliat Care 2022; 3(1): 74

Synovial antibody index as a marker of synovitis in knee osteoarthritis

Diz osteoartritinde sinovit belirteci olarak sinoviyal antikor indeksi

Orçun Şahin

Başkent University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Cite this article as/Bu makaleye atıf için: Şahin O. Synovial antibody index as a marker of synovitis in knee osteoarthritis. J Med Palliat Care 2022; 3(1): 74.

Dear editor,

I was very delighted to read your latest issue with various articles about the different aspects of medicine. I was also pleased that among the authors were many faculties from multiple disciplines. I read, with interest, the study by Yılmaz et al. (vol.2, number 4, 2021) analyzing the antibody response of various viruses in patients with synovitis. I had several concerns about the article that I wanted to emphasize. First, the term "synovitis" has an extremely wide use among physicians with a very wide range of etiologies. The article pointed out that only advanced patients with knee osteoarthritis (Kelgreen stage 3-4) were included in the study group. Nevertheless, the type of osteoarthritis (primary or secondary) and the stage of synovitis (acute vs chronic or early vs late) and if the patients have any history of inflammatory diseases are not clear enough in the article (1,2). Second, the synovial antibody index, which was mentioned in the materials and methods section, had no reference. The authors used this index to get a definitive conclusion for the source of the viral antibodies in the synovial fluid. So it is the most important parameter in the study. I did a search in English literature and could not find any article defining an index like that. If this was a first description by the authors, then I recommend doing a validation analysis in a different study. Finally, the literature contains numerous studies analyzing the inflammatory reaction of the synovium against various viruses (3,4). In these studies, for the detection of the viral load, an immunohistochemical analysis of the synovial tissue was also frequently performed (5). In short, although well-designed, I believe that, it would have been much better if the study and control groups were meticulously composed with well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Moreover, the synovial antibody index has to be clarified, it would be more helpful if a contribution from the literature was added to the manuscript and an immunohistochemical analysis was added to the final conclusion.

Keywords: Synovitis, osteoarthritis, antibody

REFERENCES

1. Benito MJ, Veale DJ, FitzGerald O, van den Berg WB, Bresnihan B. Synovial tissue inflammation in early and late osteoarthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 2005; 64: 1263-7.
2. Tarner IH, Härle P, Müller-Ladner U, Gay RE, Gay S. The different stages of synovitis: acute vs chronic, early vs late and non-erosive vs erosive. Best Pract Res Clin Rheumatol 2005; 19: 19-35.
3. Xu X, Estekizadeh A, Davoudi B, et. al. Detection of human cytomegalovirus in synovial neutrophils obtained from patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Scand J Rheumatol 2021; 50: 183-8.
4. Mehraein Y, Lennerz C, Ehlhardt S, Remberger K, Ojak A, Zang KD. Latent Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection and cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection in synovial tissue of autoimmune chronic arthritis determined by RNA- and DNA-in situ hybridization. Mod Pathol 2004; 17: 781-9.
5. Gogarty M, Fitzgerald O. Immunohistochemistry of the inflamed synovium. Methods Mol Med 2007; 135: 47-63.

Corresponding Author/Sorumlu Yazar: Orcun Sahin, Başkent University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology Yukarı Bahçelievler Mah. Mareşal Fevzi Çakmak Cd. 10.Sok. No:45 06490, Bahçelievler, Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail/E-posta: drorcunsahin@gmail.com
Received/Geliş: 26.01.2022 **Accepted/Kabul:** 24.02.2022

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.